

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Niel F. STARKSEN

Application No.: 10/656,797

Confirmation No.: 7101

Filed: September 4, 2003

Art Unit: 3734

For: **DEVICES AND METHODS FOR CARDIAC  
ANNULUS STABILIZATION AND  
TREATMENT**

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Examiner: K. Dowe

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the final Office Action dated October 30, 2007, for which a response was due on January 30, 2008. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a one month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response up to and including February 29, 2008. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. In addition to the Amendment, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.